

# With Wings Like Eagles

*Isaiah 40:31*

## I. Introduction:

- A. Israel is in Babylonian captivity and, evidently is in the depths of despair when God has Isaiah make this powerful and dramatic declaration to her.
- B. Through Isaiah, God is attempting to convince the Israelites of the matchless and incomparable nature of Jehovah, the only true God.
- C. In this passage, God provides comfort for His people. He wants them to know He has not forgotten them and that Jerusalem will be restored.
- D. Those who have enough faith shall go upward toward Him “with wings like eagles” and they shall be successful.
- E. Mankind’s disposition is to grow weary when burdens become heavy, and that is what the Israelites have done: they think God is like they are. Problems have come, and they think God has grown weary with them.
- F. Isaiah says, “No, God is not like man.” The prophet agrees that man, even youth, does grow weary. But he emphasizes that not only does God Himself not grow weary, He gives strength to those who become weary.
- G. Who are the ones who do not grow weary today?

## II. Those who wait on the Lord.

- A. Those who do not grow weary in well-doing in any age are those who “*wait on the Lord*”—those who have a strong faith in Him.
- B. By a connection with God, their strength is renewed, they draw upon His strength, they tire not from running the Christian race, and they faint not when the going gets rough and when their faith is challenged.
- C. Paul writes, “*For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day*” (2 Tim. 1:12).
- D. We need a faith like Paul’s, one that will give us the strength to withstand any onslaught the devil may put before us.
- E. The time has never been more urgent than now for us to have this kind of faith—our spiritual survival depends on this kind of faith.
- F. The faith upon which we stand now faces uncertain challenges.
  - 1. Liberal and private interpretation of scripture is on every hand.
  - 2. Challenges to change the faith confront us. Our forefathers faced such challenges with strength and courage, and we must also.
  - 3. The devil throws fiery darts into every part of our lives.
  - 4. Every Christian must have a solid faith like Paul’s and a basic knowledge of God’s word if we are going to be able to respond forcefully and positively to the devil’s attacks.
- G. As Paul writes to Corinthians, he knows that the serious difficulties they face can be discouraging to them and even a distraction from moving forward with their mission of spreading the gospel.
- H. So, it is with passion and urgency that he writes near the end of his first epistle and says, “*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I presented to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are*

*saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain” (1 Cor. 15:1-2).*

- I. Concluding his appeal, Paul writes, *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58).*
- J. How different this teaching from the popular cry that times have changed and we live in a different age, so we should change, too. Times have changed, but the gospel has not—it is still God’s power to save, and it always will be.

### **III. Those who grow in the gospel**

- A. The gospel is all we have. We do not have magnificent cathedrals, massive worship centers, emotionally charged worship services, extensive recreational activities, or multiple offerings of the social gospel. All we have is the simple gospel that Paul preached. And it is all we need to get to heaven.
- B. Paul writes: *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’ ” (Rom. 1:16-17).*
- C. Christ is our encouragement for growth (1 Cor. 1:18-25).
- D. Peter challenges us to grow in Christ (2 Pet. 1:5-11)
- E. The gospel is the beginning and the end of our faith.

### **IV. Those who make a firm decision to take their lives in a spiritual direction**

- A. You can be better than you’ve ever been before—everyone can (Gal. 5:22-25; Col. 3:23-24)
- B. Even Jesus says, *“I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work” (Jn. 9:4).*

### **V. Conclusion:**

- A. Not only was God the strength of His people Israel, but He is our strength today. Those who rely on God shall renew their strength and ever “mount” upward toward our common goal: Heaven.
- B. So we look to the future with the kind of faith Paul had and with the confidence that we can be successful even in a world where religious ideas have run far amuck from the Word of God.
- C. It is a world where sometimes even those around us would entice us to give up the faith that was once delivered for all saints and come on over to join the masses as they seek God on human terms.
- D. We cannot shirk from the responsibility that is laid upon us to *“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong” (1 Cor. 16:13).* We shall run but not grow weary—we shall walk and not faint.
- E. Rather, with firm resolve, we lift our wings and soar like eagles as we rise to face the challenges that lie ahead. And we do so with the faith and assurance that all will work out according to the will of the Father who provided for the eternal welfare of our souls and who does not want us to allow Satan to win this or any other battle.